

KAIBAB PLAINS CACTUS
(*Pediocactus paradinei*)

STATUS: Species protected under a Conservation Agreement.

SPECIES DESCRIPTION: A small, single, green, globose cactus (Family Cactaceae). It is usually no more than 40 mm (1.5 in) tall above ground and half of its stem is underground. Plants can reach diameters of 60-80 mm (2.5 - 3.0 in). There are 4-6 central spines per areole, white, hair-like, dense, flexible, bristle-like, 5-7 mm (.2 -.3 in) long. The flowers are 19-25 mm (.75 - 1.0 in) in diameter, with cream to pale yellow petals with a pink midrib. The fruit is top-shaped, greenish, turning tan when ripe. During the dry seasons, the plants retract into the ground and are flush with the soil surface.

HABITAT: The species occurs in pinyon-juniper woodlands and shrub/grassland valleys from 1,371-2,130 m (4,500-7,000 ft) in elevation in Coconino County, Arizona. This species may be restricted to Kaibab limestone soils in transitional areas between woodland and sagebrush communities.

RANGE: Historic: The species is endemic to the Colorado Plateau.

Current: It is known to occur exclusively on the eastern slopes of the Kaibab Plateau and small portions of adjoining House Rock and Coyote valleys in Coconino County.

REASONS FOR DECLINE/VULNERABILITY: Habitat loss or deterioration due to off-road vehicle use for recreation and fuel gathering, road construction, recreational activities, livestock grazing, vegetation manipulation, and collection. It is particularly vulnerable to these threats due to its very limited distribution.

LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP: The North Kaibab Ranger District of the Kaibab National Forest, and the Arizona Strip District of the Bureau of Land Management.

NOTES: In October 1996, the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management developed a Conservation Assessment and Strategy for the species. A Conservation Agreement between the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the Fish and Wildlife Service was finalized on February 11, 1998. Due to the general and specific conservation and protective measures provided in those two documents, which are to be implemented by the land management agencies, the species was removed from candidate status on April 2, 1998 (63 FR 16217).

Paradine plains cactus is another common name for the species.